

CLAIMS:

1. Method for radial tracking in an optical disc drive (1), wherein a tracking error signal (S3) is derived from wobble-induced signal components (W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D) of an optical detector output signal (S_R).

5 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the tracking error signal (S3) is generated according to the formula

$$DTD4R = \Delta(A,B) + (C,D), \text{ wherein}$$

$\Delta(A,B)$ represents the delay $\tau_A - \tau_B$ between signals $W_A = K_A \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_A)$ and $W_B = K_B \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_B)$,

10 $\Delta(C,D)$ represents the delay $\tau_C - \tau_D$ between signals $W_C = K_C \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_C)$ and $W_D = K_D \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_D)$, wherein

K_A , K_B , K_C , K_D are respective amplitudes

τ_A , τ_B , τ_C , τ_D are respective phases

τ is the tangential scanning variable

15 and wherein W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D represent the amount of light received at respective segments of an optical detector (35).

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the tracking error signal is generated according to the formula

20
$$DTD4T = \Delta(A,D) + (C,B), \text{ wherein}$$

$\Delta(A,D)$ represents the delay $\tau_A - \tau_D$ between signals $W_A = K_A \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_A)$ and $W_D = K_D \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_D)$,

$\Delta(C,B)$ represents the delay $\tau_C - \tau_B$ between signals $W_C = K_C \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_C)$ and $W_B = K_B \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_B)$, wherein

25 K_A , K_B , K_C , K_D are respective amplitudes

τ_A , τ_B , τ_C , τ_D are respective phases

τ is the tangential scanning variable

and wherein W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D represent the amount of light received at respective segments of an optical detector (35).

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the tracking error signal is generated
5 according to the formula

$$DTD2 = \Delta(A+C, B+D), \text{ wherein}$$

$\Delta(A+C, B+D)$ represents the delay $\tau_{A+C} - \tau_{B+D}$ between signals

$$W_A + W_C = K_{A+C} \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_{A+C}) \text{ and } W_B + W_D = K_{B+D} \cdot \cos(\tau - \tau_{B+D}), \text{ wherein}$$

K_A , K_B , K_C , K_D are respective amplitudes

10 τ_A , τ_B , τ_C , τ_D are respective phases

τ is the tangential scanning variable

and wherein W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D represent the amount of light received at respective segments of an optical detector (35).

- 15 5. Method for radial tracking in an optical disc drive (1), wherein, if the track being followed is non-written, a tracking error signal (S3) is derived from wobble-induced signal components (W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D) of an optical detector output signal (S_R) in accordance with any of claims 1-4, and wherein, if the track being followed is written, a tracking error signal (S3) is derived from data-induced signal components of the optical
20 detector output signal (S_R).

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the optical detector output signal (S_R) is evaluated to determine whether the track being followed is non-written or written.

- 25 7. Method according to claim 6, wherein the determination whether the track being followed is non-written or written is made on the basis of the signal power contents of a low-frequency part (171) of the central aperture signal (CA).

8. Method according to claim 7, wherein the signal power contents of the low-
30 frequency part (171) of the central aperture signal (CA) is monitored, and wherein, in case a substantial drop in signal power is detected, tracking error signal generation is switched to deriving the tracking error signal from data-induced signal components whereas, in case a

substantial rise in signal power is detected, tracking error signal generation is switched to deriving the tracking error signal from wobble-induced signal components (W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D) in accordance with any of claims 1-4.

5 9. Method according to claim 6, wherein the determination whether the track being followed is non-written or written is made on the basis of the signal power contents of a data-frequency part (173) of the central aperture signal (CA).

10 10. Method according to claim 9, wherein the signal power contents of the data-frequency part (173) of the central aperture signal (CA) is monitored, and wherein, in case a substantial rise in signal power is detected, tracking error signal generation is switched to deriving the tracking error signal from data-induced signal components whereas, in case a substantial drop in signal power is detected, tracking error signal generation is switched to deriving the tracking error signal from wobble-induced signal components (W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D) in accordance with any of claims 1-4.

11. Optical disc drive (1), comprising:

- an optical system (30) for scanning an optical disc (2) with a light beam (32), the optical system (30) comprising an optical detector (35) for receiving light (32d) reflected
20 by the optical disc (2);
- a radial actuator (51) for radially displacing a focal spot (F) of the light beam (32);
- a control circuit (90) having an input (91) for receiving an output signal (S_R) of said optical detector (35), and having an output (93) for generating a control signal (S_{CR})
25 for said radial actuator (51);

wherein said control circuit (90) is capable of operating in at least a first operating mode wherein said control signal (S_{CR}) for said radial actuator (51) is generated on the basis of a tracking error signal (S_3) derived from wobble-induced signal components (W_A , W_B , W_C , W_D) of said optical detector output signal (S_R).

12. Optical disc drive according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit is capable of processing said optical detector output signal (S_R) for calculating a tracking error signal in accordance with the method of any of claims 2-4.

5 13. Optical disc drive according to claim 12, wherein said optical detector (35) is a four-segment detector.

14. Optical disc drive according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit (90) is capable of operating in at least a second operating mode wherein said control signal (S_{CR}) for said radial actuator (51) is generated on the basis of a tracking error signal (S_3) derived from data-induced signal components of said optical detector output signal (S_R).

15. Optical disc drive according to claim 14, wherein said control circuit (90) is adapted to monitor said optical detector output signal (S_R), and to operate in said first
15 operating mode when said optical detector output signal (S_R) indicates an unwritten track, and to operate in said second operating mode when said optical detector output signal (S_R) indicates a written track.

16. Optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein said control circuit (90) is adapted to monitor the signal power (171) of low-frequency signal components of said
20 optical detector output signal (S_R), to compare the measured signal power (171) with a predetermined reference level (174), and to operate in said first operating mode when said measured signal power (171) is above said reference level (174), and to operate in said second operating mode when said measured signal power (171) is below said reference level
25 (174).

17. Optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein said control circuit (90) is adapted to monitor the signal power (171) of low-frequency signal components of said optical detector output signal (S_R), and to switch to said first operating mode when said
30 measured signal power (171) shows an increase by more than a predetermined amount, for instance when the time-derivative (176) of said measured signal power (171) exceeds a predetermined positive reference level (178), and to operate in said second operating mode when said measured signal power (171) shows a drop by more than a predetermined amount,

for instance when the time-derivative (176) of said measured signal power (171) exceeds a predetermined negative reference level (177).

18. Optical disc drive according to claim 15, wherein said control circuit (90) is adapted to monitor the signal power (173) of data-frequency signal components of said optical detector output signal (S_R), to compare the measured signal power (173) with a predetermined reference level (175), and to operate in said first operating mode when said measured signal power (173) is below said reference level (175), and to operate in said second operating mode when said measured signal power (173) is above said reference level (175).

19. Optical disc drive according to claim 18, wherein said control circuit (90) is adapted to monitor the signal power (173) of data-frequency signal components of said optical detector output signal (S_R), and to switch to said first operating mode when said measured signal power (173) shows a drop by more than a predetermined amount, for instance when the time-derivative of said measured signal power (173) exceeds a predetermined negative reference level, and to operate in said second operating mode when said measured signal power (173) shows an increase by more than a predetermined amount, for instance when the time-derivative of said measured signal power (173) exceeds a predetermined positive reference level (177).

20. Optical disc drive according to claim 14, wherein said control circuit (290) has a first signal processing path (310a-d, 320, 330, 340) for processing said optical detector output signal (S_R) in said first operative mode, wherein said control circuit (90) has a second signal processing path (410a-d, 420, 430, 440) for processing said optical detector output signal (S_R) in said second operative mode, and a controllable switch (299) for selecting either said first signal processing path or said second signal processing path.

21. Optical disc drive according to claim 14, wherein said control circuit (90) comprises an input filter assembly (110A-D) having a controllable filter characteristic.

22. Optical disc drive according to claim 21, wherein said input filter assembly (110A-D) comprises at least one controllable filter device (110A) having a signal input

(111a) coupled to a optical detector input (91a) of the control circuit (90), having a signal output (112a), and having a control input (113a), the controllable filter device (110A) being designed to pass signal components in a low-frequency range and to block signal components in a data-frequency range in response to a control signal (S_{FC}) received at its control input (113a) having a first value, the controllable filter device (110A) being designed to block signal components in said low-frequency range and to pass signal components in said data-frequency range in response to said control signal (S_{FC}) received at its control input (113a) having a second value.

23. Optical disc drive according to claim 22, wherein said controllable filter device (110) comprises:
- a first filter (115) having a filter characteristic passing signal components in said low-frequency range and blocking signal components in said data-frequency range, said first filter (115) having a filter signal input (115a) coupled to the input (111) of said filter device (110);
 - a second filter (116) having a filter characteristic blocking signal components in said low-frequency range and passing signal components in said data-frequency range, said second filter (116) having a filter signal input (116a) coupled to the input (111) of said filter device (110);
 - a controllable switch (117) having signal inputs (117a, 117b) coupled to filter signal outputs (115b, 116b), respectively, having a signal output (117c) coupled to the output (112) of said filter device (110), and having a control input (117d) coupled to the control input (113) of said filter device (110);

wherein said controllable switch (117) is adapted to couple its output (117c) to one of its inputs (117a, 117b) in response to a control signal received at its control input (117d).

24. Optical disc drive according to claim 21, further comprising:
a first delay calculator (120) having:

- a first input (121) coupled to the output (112a) of a first controllable filter device (110A) having its signal input (111a) coupled to a first optical detector input (91a) of the control circuit (90) for receiving the filtered optical output signal (A) corresponding to the amount of light received at a first detector quadrant (35a);
- a second input (122) coupled to the output (112d) of a fourth controllable filter

device (110D) having its signal input (111d) coupled to a fourth optical detector input (91d) of the control circuit (90) for receiving the filtered optical output signal (D) corresponding to the amount of light received at a fourth detector quadrant (35d);

- a second delay calculator (130) having:

- 5 - a first input (131) coupled to the output (112c) of a third controllable filter device (110C) having its signal input (111c) coupled to a third optical detector input (91c) of the control circuit (90) for receiving the filtered optical output signal (C) corresponding to the amount of light received at a third detector quadrant (35c);

- a second input (132) coupled to the output (112b) of a second controllable
10 filter device (110B) having its signal input (111b) coupled to a second optical detector input (91b) of the control circuit (90) for receiving the filtered optical output signal (B) corresponding to the amount of light received at a second detector quadrant (35b);

- the delay calculators (120, 130) each being designed to generate an output
15 signal (S1, S2) representing the time difference or phase difference of signals received at their inputs;

- the control circuit (90) further comprising an adder (140) comprising two inputs (141, 142) coupled to outputs (123, 133) of said delay calculators (120, 130), respectively, and an output (143) providing the summation of said two input signals as tracking error signal (S3).